

Center United Methodist Church

A History of Service Since 1830

Including historic details provided by Bill Seaford

1830

Church members gathered in the home of Joel Penry.

1833

Land deed for a church building was acquired from John Smith to several men – 2 acres.

The first church was a log structure located where the cemetery is today.

1870

More land was acquired (3 acres) from the Tutterows, Richards, and other families across the road from the cemetery. A new frame building was constructed. The wood was hand-hewn with a broad ax and put together with wooden pegs. Only the best forest pine was used.

1876

An arbor was erected to be used for Camp Meetings.

1877

The first Camp Meeting was held. A large crowd came from miles around to attend these events which often lasted for several days.

1931

The wood church was moved west of the current church and five classrooms were added. A bell tower was added along with a large bell donated by Mr. & Mrs. George Evans, Sr.

1946-50

Talk began of some work on the church and it was decided that a new structure should be built.

1951

The congregation began raising money for the new building.

Plans were drawn by George Evans, Sr.

1953

Ground was broken. A well was drilled and work began.

1954

Brick was laid and the outside was completed.

1955

Work was completed on inside.

All work was done on a "pay-as-you-go" basis.

1956

New church complete. Much of the labor was done by members of the congregation who met every Monday night to work.

April 1 – Last service held in the old church.

The building was sold, dismantled and moved.

April 8 – First service in the new church.

July 1 – Furniture was in the sanctuary. Quarterly conference was held with Rev. Hipps (District Superintendent) preaching.

Sept. 1, 1957

Formal dedication of the new building at Homecoming.

Church cost \$45,000 to build (due to donated labor).

1958

Church consisted of 164 members. A cornerstone was laid on May 4.

Since then...

A new Family Life Center has been added including a large kitchen, classrooms, storage, library, office, and restrooms. The parking lot around the church has been paved. A log cabin was moved to the property and is the meeting place for Center's Boy Scout Troop 505. A Pre-School program has been added to the church. The Historic Center Arbor weathered near tornado force winds which destroyed the roof and is now covered with a new metal roof.